

Annual Report of Accomplishments and Outcomes, July 2012 – June 2013

New Mexico Department of Health, Epidemiology and Response Division

New Mexico Occupational Health Surveillance Program

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Program type: Fundamental Surveillance

Major Outputs and Products

[Database and Data Use Agreements](#) [Evaluation](#) [Investigations](#) [Outreach](#) [Products](#) [Publications and Presentations](#)

[Databases and Data Use Agreements](#)

EHEB Notifiable Conditions Database (pilot phase)

The Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau (EHEB) database will help organize all of the reported occupational and environmental health notifiable conditions cases for the state of New Mexico. It will allow for the assessment of work related illnesses and injuries by location and industry, as well as by other demographics such as age or gender. An intern was hired in June 2013 to pilot the database and work with the IT developer.

New Mexico Poison and Drug Information Center, signed December 12, 2012

For work-related incidence reports and environmental pesticide incidence reports

Workers' Compensation Administration, signed March 26, 2013

For data linkage between Workers Compensation Claims data and NM Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, signed April 15, 2013

Letter of agreement to access the Census of Fatal Occupational Injury (CFOI) research files for New Mexico

NM Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, The CDC BRFSS optional module for industry and occupation is being collected in New Mexico for 2013.

[Evaluation](#)

New Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) mission statement

The NMOHSP advisory group developed a new mission statement:

To promote safe and healthy workplaces for all New Mexico by:

- *Evaluating work-related injuries and illnesses*
- *Targeting intervention and prevention*
- *Raising awareness among workers, employers, health care providers and the public*

New OHSP logic model

A logic model was developed for the strategic plan of the NMOHSP. Graph of logic model is available upon request.

Investigations

Four Corners NM, October, 2012

The OHSP assisted the Navajo Epidemiology Center with investigation of farm worker respiratory illnesses that occurred during harvest on farm property leased from the Navajo Nation. The OHSP consulted with NIOSH experts and identified some steps that can be taken to prevent respiratory symptoms in farm workers due to nonspecific organic and inorganic dusts. Recommendations were shared with the Navajo Area Indian Health Service.

Doña Ana County, NM, October 30, 2012

The OHSP epidemiologist collaborated with State OSHA and Air Quality Bureau from the Environment Department to investigate the release of an unknown substance which resulted in the evacuation of approximately 200 workers at different establishments at an industrial park in Southern NM. The investigation included an OSHA inspection of a medical sterilization facility. The substance causing the evacuation remains unidentified.

Outreach

Letter to clinical and pathology laboratories

A letter was mailed to clinical and pathology laboratories providing occupational medicine services in New Mexico informing them of their obligation to report occupational notifiable conditions to the Department of Health. July 2012.

Focus group

The OHSP collaborated with Drs. Denece Kesler and Olivia Hopkins at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, to conduct a focus group of health providers and administrators in order to determine their awareness of the OHSP and OHR among health care providers and administrators and to identify potential activities that could improve the collection of reports from clinics and their providers. A summary report will be available upon request. March, 2013.

Indian Affairs Safety, Health, and Wellness Fair

The OHSP exhibited information on occupational illness and injury prevention at the Indian Affairs Safety, Health, and Wellness Fair held at the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs building, Albuquerque, NM. April 10, 2013.

Annual Workers' Compensation Association of New Mexico Conference

The OHSP exhibited information on Occupational Health Notifiable Conditions Reporting alongside our sister State agency, NM Workers' Compensation Administration. May 17, 2013.

Publications and Presentations

Moraga-McHaley SA, Landen M, Krapfl H, Sewell CM. *Hypersensitivity pneumonitis with Mycobacterium avium complex among spa workers*. Int J Occup Environ Health. 2013 Jan-Mar;19(1):55-61.

Hudson NL, Kasner EJ, Beckman J, Mehler L, Schwartz A, Higgins S, Bonnar-Prado J, Lackovic M, Mulay P, Mitchell Y, Larios L, Walker R, Waltz J, Moraga-McHaley S, Roisman R, Calvert GM. *Characteristics and magnitude of acute pesticide-related illnesses and injuries associated with pyrethrin and pyrethroid exposures-11 states, 2000-2008*. Am J Ind Med. 2013 Jun 20.

New Mexico Public Health Association and University of New Mexico National Health Disparities 2013 Joint Conference

Got Milk? Here's Why: The health realities of New Mexico's dairy workers. Gail Evans, J.D., LLM; Stephanie Moraga-McHaley, MS; Satya P. Rao, PhD; Tess Wilkes, JD. Albuquerque, NM.

April 19, 2013. New Mexico's factory dairies are powered by an invisible class of immigrant workers who are susceptible to exploitation on several levels. The panel described the sparse health data and efforts to improve dairy workers' lives, as well as explain what concerned professionals can do to facilitate change.

New Mexico Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers

New Mexico Occupational Surveillance Program Update given at the monthly meeting of the NM Chapter American Society of Safety Engineers. Albuquerque, NM. November 8, 2012.

NMDOH Quarterly Epidemiology Meeting

Upper Respiratory Symptoms among Farmworkers in the Four Corners Area, NM given at quarterly meeting. Albuquerque, NM. November 14, 2012.

Products

Educational Materials (http://nmhealth.org/eheb/occhealth_education.shtml)

The OHSP developed three educational materials for three different audiences:

- *Lead in Firing Ranges: How to Reduce Your Exposure* (web brochure). January, 2013
- *Cleaning Products and Work-Related Asthma* (poster, available in English and Spanish) May, 2013
- NM Occupational Health Surveillance Program – Occupational Health Registry Confidential Case Reporting (magnet/notepad) June, 2013

Success Story

- Submitted draft success story *Cleaning should be a breeze, not a wheeze* to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists occupational health subcommittee. March, 2013.

Websites

Occupational Health Surveillance Program (<http://nmhealth.org/eheb/occhealth.shtml>)

- Posted *Adult Lead Exposure Management Guidelines* and information. March, 2013.
- Collaborated with NM Environmental Public Health Tracking to post information on Wildfire Season and Worker Safety. June, 2013.

What's New (<http://nmhealth.org/eheb/ehebconcerns.shtml>)

The OHSP contributed topics with information and links for the EHEB *What's New* webpage:

- National Farm and Safety Week. September, 2012
- Health Concerns about Misuse of Pesticides for Bed Bug Control. December, 2012.
- New Clinicians webpage provides resource for healthcare providers. February, 2013.
- NIOSH Alert: *Preventing Occupational Respiratory Disease from Exposures Caused by Dampness in Office Buildings, Schools, and Other Nonindustrial Buildings*. May, 2013.
- North American Occupational Safety and Health Week. May, 2013.

Outcomes

Potential outcomes The focus group with UNM providers revealed that the awareness of the OHSP was low therefore, OHSP is following up with education to providers on the need to consider their patients' work during visits and the importance of reporting notifiable conditions. Reporting to the NM Occupational Health Registry in 2013 has increased 13-fold over mid-2012 and new data have begun to reveal industries with recurring illness and injury patterns.

Intermediate outcomes The collaborative investigation of farmworkers in the Four Corners region prompted preventive worker training by the Indian Health Service. The Cleaning Products and Asthma poster was distributed to several worksites for posting in work areas. The lead in firing ranges brochure was made available to workers and patrons at one range.